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## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, February 22, 1862

William M. McKinney

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Manfordsville, Ky, Feb 22<sup>d</sup> 1862

My dear Cousin Mattie.

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst has just been received and read, and I hasten on answer, and to you first, although, I received eight letters beside yours by this evenings mail. I wrote such a long one to you, three days ago, will make this rather short. Left Camp Glenbrook yesterday morning, marched 8 miles through the mud. I stayed last night, at the house of a wealthy old Kentuckian, had a splendid time with his very pretty and interesting daughter, several of the Officers there during the evening, had our band there, had a dance &c, &c. We are now on the South side of Green River, where next time will go I know not, nor when. You seem to have had quite a time at "Camp McKimzy". I would like to have been with you that evening, think I would have taken command myself. I know by our united force, we could have held the fort. I admire your military tact and knowledge of the business, lean fort.

Now I have no news at all to write  
to night, since we only arrived here this  
evening, and I have learned nothing  
of the place. As to the general news of  
the war, they are as favorable as could  
be wished or expected and of these, you  
are better posted than myself. I am well  
certainly think me a most devoted cousin  
and exemplary youth, when I give you  
a list of the letters received, and that first  
of all these, I answer yours. One from  
dear Ann W., one from the Bonhues  
daughter, one from Cousin A. E., written  
the day after yours, one from Sister Ellen,  
one from a young lady you met at  
our house on the evening of the party, that  
had come a great way and did not  
arrive until a late hour in the evening.  
Several from gentleman friends received  
and yet unanswered, and will write to  
you first of all. I have Cousin Minnie's  
letter, have not received an answer yet  
from my long letter to Aunt Angel.  
By the time I receive another from  
you, I shall have looked around a



little, and know what kind  
of a place we are in, I know nothing  
of it yet, except, that it is very  
muddy. I will not take your  
last letter through the severe course  
of criticism I usually do, let it pass  
for all it is worth, and give the  
author credit for a good letter.  
Now as I said when I began, this  
is only an apology for a letter, and  
the letter will come next time,  
but yet this is a letter and will  
demand an answer of you, so  
you are not ahead yet, nor do  
I intend that you shall be, as  
long as my name is William.  
Now Miss of you do not like the  
way this letter is gathered up, just  
let me know in the answer, and  
I will try and correct my style.  
By the way, I wrote nothing to  
Dister Mallie about Red Shoulders,  
except what was true, and truth  
must be told at all times, though  
the heavens should fall, or fair ones, yet much.